

# EDITORIALS

## Thanksgiving and You

If it's material things we're thinking about, then America has lots to be grateful for this Thanksgiving. Despite the efforts of some politicians to make us think otherwise, this country is enjoying the greatest prosperity from every viewpoint in its history.

It does not follow that this prosperity exists for all individuals, nor is it a fact that Americans in segments or as a whole have nothing to worry about. Fear, sickness, and privation still stalk the nation and Miss Prosperity has some dissolute handmaidens whose very touch poisons the feast for thousands of families where sickness and misfortune have brought about near-starvation in the midst of plenty.

In a headlong pursuit to pick up some of the spillage from the horn of plenty, many Americans have failed to pause long enough to consider the plight of less fortunate fellow men. There are all too many homes, right here in the Torrance area, where poverty and sadness exist through no fault of the father or the mother. Seemingly insurmountable obstacles face these households in this season when in most others there is great cause for rejoicing.

One way of expressing gratitude for the many material blessings at this time would be for every family in this great area to re-examine their conscience on the Community Chest. There are hundreds who have given nothing and thousands more who have not given enough to the one agency that can help bring a happier Thanksgiving to every home.

## Flight Strip Needed

The city council was concerned last week with flight controls at the Torrance Municipal airport. A proposed "touch-and-go" flight strip—long needed and so suggested by the C.A.A. and airport management—was held up pending enactment of city ordinances intended to give the city authority to control air traffic at the local field.

Adequate air traffic control on any airport is desirable and, except for local ground rules, should be almost automatic if pilots are following civil air regulations. In the case of Torrance the two greatest menaces as we see it have been the practice of allowing "touch-and-go" landings on the single flight strip and indiscriminate use of the runways by automobiles.

Establishment of a proposed secondary strip with access roads would go far to eliminate what appears to be the principal threat to safe operations.

Laymen may be confused with the term "touch-and-go." It is the practice of students undergoing training to conserve time by merely making a normal approach, executing a landing, and then taking off again without rolling to a full stop or taxiing back into takeoff position.

Such procedure has been dangerous on the one large landing strip because it is confusing to pilots landing behind "touch-and-go" airplanes. When traffic becomes unusually heavy on week ends, the danger and confusion to other normal airport traffic can be understood.

Some of the enthusiasts would like to have a control tower installed as well as landing and floodlights for night operations. These would be costly and do not appear to be warranted at this time although proponents argue that such equipment would pay for itself in increased revenue from executive type aircraft which cannot make use of the field at this time because of lack of tower controls and lights. Actually the field is not now licensed for night flying.

The new strip and access roads are within the reach of the city and can be had at once. A control tower may or may not be justified at this time as well as some other improvements that can easily be decided upon by the members of the airport commission who act without political bias.

With first things being placed first, perhaps the greatest problems can be solved now and the others solved in turn with the goal of making Torrance airport a model operation.



## LAW IN ACTION

### CIVIL DEATH

Suppose the crafty Odysseus lived today and took 10 years after the war to find his way home to Persephone? (Mind you, after those scandalous years with that scavenger girl, Calypso.)

Well, sir, he might find Mrs. Odysseus encoined as the richest widow on the Isle of Ithaca.

For suppose somebody vanishes today without word for seven years. His heirs or business associates—to clear up his affairs—may go into court on the assumption that he is dead and have the court distribute his estate.

Why make such assumptions? For the sake of untangling vital affairs and conserving property, so that the world can go on.

There is nothing magical about seven years. In wartime or in like situations, for example, a person unaccounted for, or unheard of, for a shorter time may be presumed to be dead. Though now and then such a person, like the hapless Odysseus, turns up.

Today with the massacre on our highways, California assumes certain things about people who die in a common disaster, in order to wind up

their affairs and bring about a just result.

Suppose that, ever-loving couple, Baucis and Philemon, out of affection, made criss-cross wills, only to die in a flood—a common disaster—resisting Faust. And suppose nobody could say who died first.

Then California courts—to settle their estates—would assume the impossible, that each outlived the other.

1. Baucis' separate property—the farm on the sea marshes her father willed her and the wages she earned before she married—would go to her kinfolks for as she directed in her will. The courts would assume that she outlived her husband. Likewise the property Philemon had before marriage would go to his kin, on the grounds that he had outlived her.

2. The same with their insurance policies.

3. As to their community property and joint tenancy property, the law would assume that each owned one-half separately, and that each had outlived the other.

Note: California lawyers offer this column for you to know about our laws.

## Thanksgiving



## YOUR PROBLEMS

By ANN EANDERS

Dear Ann: This will knock you right off your chair. I've been married 22 years to a man who thought it was a sin to smoke, drink, go to a movie, dance, play cards, or wear make-up. If anyone said "darn" in his presence his eyebrows went up.

This "virtuous" character told me last night that he's met a woman with interests more like his own. He wants me to give him a divorce so he can have "the kind of life he's entitled to." May I have your views Mrs. Landers? I'm not thinking very straight these days.—Put-Away Wife.

Just goes to show you that some people can find plenty of "entertainment" without smoking, drinking or going to movies. Apparently your husband was too busy to bother with the minor vices. And if he gets him a divorce, Don't let him get his "entitled to," it will serve him right.

Dear Ann: We have a problem that's never appeared in your column. What should be done about destructive children who are brought into places of business and wreck everything in sight?

I work in a men's clothing store. Recently a good customer came in with a child. The boy nearly ruined a pants rack, he smudged every mirror in the store, ran around like a wild Indian and finished off by crawling into the showcases.

Are merchants supposed to take all this with a smile? Is it wise to risk losing a good customer by getting tough with his kid? Why do some parents think that any business establishment is "open season" for the brats? If you have a solution please slap it on. We're stumped.—Slap Happy Merchant.

Customers' kids should be considered part of the occupational hazard—to a point. Parents who aren't able to control the little darlings at home can't perform miracles in public.

Tolerate the noise and running and play deaf until the sale is rung up. But when the merchandise and fixtures are threatened, it's time to say, "Mrs. Jones, please get Oswald off the chandelier. We'd hate to have him cripple himself in our store."

Dear Ann: I have four children and my husband is an insurance salesman. He never gets home before 12:30 at night. I doubt very much that he can be selling insurance or collecting premiums so late.

He's always stone cold sober and there's no evidence that he's been seeing another woman. I simply can't figure out what he's doing at this hour. I'm unable to discuss this with any of my family or friends and I need help desperately.

Please tell me what to do.—Worried Wife.

I suggest a new policy. Tell your husband it's poor salesmanship to bother customers late at night so there's no reason to be out later than 10 bells. At the same time, let him know you trust him or you'll give the guy ideas he never had before.

Dear Ann: I'm 16 and going steady with a boy 18. We spend a lot of time together and he's over at the house every day after school. I have three bratty little brothers who won't give us any privacy so we're forced to visit in my bedroom. I keep the door closed so my brothers won't barge in.

The other evening my father complained. He said this was no way to entertain a boy. My mother stuck up for me and tried to get Dad to understand that teen-agers are freer now than in the

olden days. Mother and I think that he's evil-minded and ought to have more faith in me. What's your opinion?—"Dickie."

Your father has an ally—me. He needs help, too, since your mother's judgment doesn't seem to be any better than that of her 16-year-old daughter.

To entertain a young man in the bedroom is absolutely taboo, three "bratty" brothers notwithstanding. I don't know what your mother considers "free" but I suggest you put higher premium on your company. Anything that's too "free" has no value.

Confidentially... A Wife Very Much in Love: Your place is with your husband. The "comforts" should be secondary.

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## The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ

Christmas comes but once a year, but when it comes, it lasts two months.

Now that Christmas decorations are making their appearances in various surrounding cities, people will begin bustling about, thinking of what to buy for Christmas, what parties to attend, and what to serve for Christmas dinner.

We hadn't even thought of Thanksgiving turkey before these Christmas hangles were put up. Torrance hasn't got its Christmas decorations up this year yet, and it's just as well. We will be Christmased to death by the time Dec. 25 actually gets here.

It seems to me that Americans are generally much too businesslike in their Christmases. We dutifully put up trees and decorations, get gifts for everybody from Aunt Minnie to Cousin Hector, and on Christmas Day, open them, admire them, and stuff them away in a drawer.

What ever happened to the old-fashioned Christmas parade? Torrance will have a Christmas parade this year, but it will have little of the spectacular pageantry that marked the Christmas parades I remember as a boy.

I can recall the delight with which I anticipated the annual Christmas parade in my hometown, Lincoln, Neb. It was the delight of adults and children alike, as huge floats and figures rolled through the streets as thousands looked on. It was a spectacle that people came for miles to see.

The parade was miles and miles and miles long, or so it seemed to my wondering eyes.

Gaily colored floats, rivaling those at Pasadena on New Year's Day, brought the world's greatest fairy tales to life and showed some of the traditional Christmas stories in all their pagentry.

There were squeals of delight as Old Mother Hubbard went to her cupboard to get her poor dog a bone.

There were ohs and ahs as the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe chased her many children with whom she didn't know what to do.

There were youthful tears as Little Bo Peep tried to find her sheep and as three Little Kittens tried to locate their mittens.

Everybody covered his ears as Little Boy Blue came and blew his horn.

There were huge figures bobbing down the street, with grotesque features and the longest noses I ever saw. People wearing the heads of dogs, cats, giants, midgets, ugly old men and women, and dragons stopped to shake hands with the crowds which lined the streets.

Last in the parade, of course, was Santa Claus. Somehow, I find the modern-day Christmas parades rather tame by comparison.

I wonder if this old custom is gone forever, or if it could not be revived. The floats and costumes for such a parade require some years to accumulate to bring the parade to its most splendid, but nevertheless, the result is worth it.

Christmas comes but once a year. Why not have a Christmas parade, old-style?

## The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

A few years ago—three hundred and thirty-three—a bunch of the neighbors in a new housing tract just west of Plymouth Rock got together one fall afternoon over a backyard barbecue and had themselves a feast of deer meat, grouse, partridge, and goose to emphasize their thankfulness for the successful year that was about to end.

Somehow or another, like the block party, the idea caught on, and today just 333 years later neighbors in housing tracts all over the country will be getting together for a feast of Thanksgiving.

Unlike our forefathers whose thanks were expressed for simple things—food, shelter, and their very existence—we have so many things to be thankful for.

Serious journalists no doubt will set down today's quota of phrases about the profound meanings of Thanksgiving, but it has occurred to us that there are a few things for which we should be thankful which might be overlooked if not recorded here.

We can be thankful that radios, records, and television today can bring us beautiful works of art instantaneously from the world's stages—musical art like "Green Door," "Hound Dog," and "Blueberry Hill." Then there is the moving and vibrant art of the pen as characterized by "First and Sales" in darkest Africa.

We can be thankful that modern technology in communications can bring us the news by word and picture, when Bonnie Prince Charles changes his hair style in England.

In the olden days, the Pilgrims would have to wait breathlessly for months for this vital information.

We can be thankful that cities like Torrance can be considered seriously for nationwide honors among cities without putting up a roadside sign so passers-by can tell where it is.

We can be thankful that Torrance was able to put off the installation of Christmas decorations until after today's festivities—goodness knows, Thanksgiving and Christmas are close enough now, without overlapping them.

We can be thankful that there is only one Elvis Presley. (Although, a lot of guys with different names are becoming adept at "sounding like him.")

We can be thankful that American drivers are killing less than 40,000 persons a year when anyone who has driven through the Southland's freeway system knows the figure could be tripled with very little effort.

We can be thankful that Little Orphan Annie, Andy Gump, and Dick Tracy are calmly settling their problems in four-color each Sunday while the rest of the world is shakily juggling bombs, troops, and ultimatums.

We can be thankful that no civic celebration or club promotion thinks about opening a project without selecting a shapely queen.

And, in at least one case I know, a Torrance family is thankful this week that Texas as a state is a nonconformist. The Willys Blount family will celebrate Thanksgiving here today, go to St. Louis for a convention Saturday, and return to Texas to celebrate the Texans' official Thanksgiving next Thursday. They'll be starting on a new turkey while most of us are still picking at the leftovers.

## AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

It appears to us that the primary purpose of Soviet foreign policy is to foment trouble in the free and neutral world and to retain what she has acquired by continued force and intimidation. It is also Soviet policy to fill vacuums by the miscalculations of the West, as was exhibited in such bold relief these past few days in the Middle East. In our opinion Britain, France and Israel handed Russia the golden opportunity to salvage the inevitable consequences of her crumbling satellite empire by their invasion of Egypt.

It can be said now that the reversal of Soviet policy from first accepting the new Hungarian anti-Communist regime and then within two days attacking and crushing it, was the result of the allied attack upon Egypt.

As we said in these columns last week, and more evidence is apparent now, Russia is planning moves of the greatest import and gravity in the Middle East for a greater share of oil and strategic bases to strengthen Communist parties and Communist influence in the Middle East and on the African coast. With Egypt, Algiers, Morocco and other Moslem and Arab areas at war, or on the verge of war against Britain and France, Russia is taking every advantage in fomenting millions of Arabs and Moslems against the West.

With the revolt in Poland it became apparent that Russian influence was losing its grip among the satellites. The decline started from the de-Stalinization policy in Russia which demoralized and divided the whole Communist world, and at the same time enhanced the forces of nationalism, both Communist and non-Communist.

The revolt in Poland was an example of two Communist factions... pro-Russian and anti-Russian... fighting it out for control. In Hungary we witnessed for the first time in years an actual all-out revolt, not just against Russian Communism, but against Communism itself.

This was without precedent inside the satellite world and shook Moscow as nothing has shaken it since the Nazi attack. Both of these anti-Russian forces were dedicated in varying degrees and purposes to the freedom and independence of East Europe from Soviet influence.

Only the power of the U.S. at this point appears capable of averting catastrophe in the Middle East.

With the hue and cry for Britain and France now for a meeting with President Eisenhower to extricate them from this dangerous mess, some hope is apparent that the cease-fire will at least temporarily stick. It is possible that with trouble inside Russia and the satellites, the Soviet leaders may renege on their promise to assist Egypt and the Arab world on a large military scale.

Against Hungarian revolt Soviet domination was making extraordinary headway and was on the verge of success soon after the Polish affair proved that Soviet power was receding in East Europe. With Poland, Rumania and Hungary manifesting unrest, Russia was faced with the immense problem of retaining control of its post-war acquisitions.

With internal problems plaguing Russia and Khrushchev's control being challenged by old guards like Molotov and Malenkov, it looked as though Hungary was close to breaking the big link of the Cominform chain.

At this moment Russia decided to withdraw from Hungary and was already pulling her troops out when fate intervened by way of the Middle East. Israel invaded Egypt and Britain and France sent an impossible ultimatum to Egypt to practice

cally give Israel a free hand in her territory, or Britain and France would land on Suez.

There is no doubt that Russia offered Egypt moral and military support to defend her soil. This had a double-barreled effect. One, that it involved Britain and France in war with Egypt and increased the crisis in the Middle East and, two, it shifted world attention from East Europe to the Middle East and triggered Russia's determination to crush the Hungarians.

Since Britain and France (and, of course, the United States) make up the backbone of the western coalition against Soviet aggression, it was to Russia's advantage to push Egypt deeper into the conflict and divert world attention to the British-French aggression on Egypt.

With the U.S. involved in the closing days of a presidential election and President Eisenhower denouncing the attack upon Egypt, Moscow reversed its policy and attacked Hungary with the force of eight Soviet divisions to paralyze the heroic efforts of the Hungarian people to free their nation.

In all probability the attack upon Egypt by our allies at this particular juncture postponed the inevitable disintegration of the Soviet empire by way of Hungary.

It also cracked wide open the western coalition, if it did not permanently wreck it... and inflamed the Arab-Moslem world to such extremes of hatred that anything can now happen in the Middle East.

The attack upon Egypt gave Russia the moral shield in reverse, for the British and French could not deplore military action in Budapest when their own armies were involved in the Suez canal.

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I shall bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.—(Psalm 34:1.)

How may we bless and praise the Lord? Surely through acts of love and kindness to our fellow men—in seeking only the good that is God in all of us, striving to be of service, in His name, to those who need our help.

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## My Neighbors



"You married? I'm getting mighty tired of working all the time and paying it out in taxes!"